

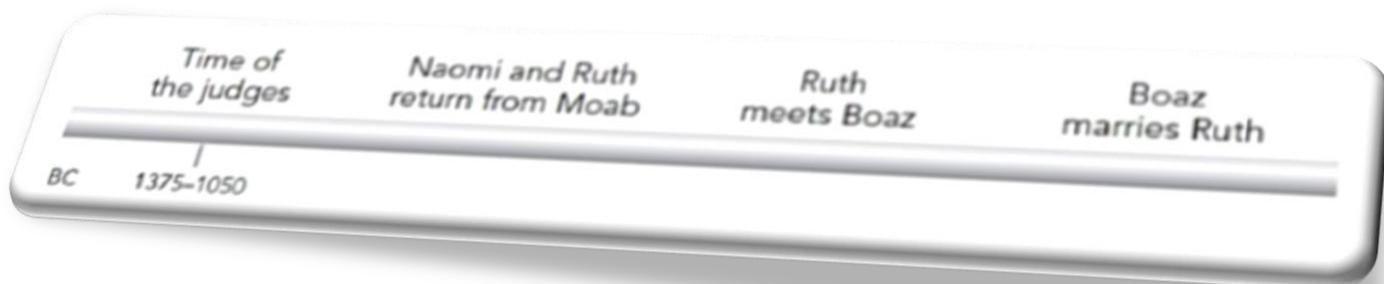
# The Story

## Session 10: The Faith of a Foreign Woman

Buhler Mennonite Church Sanctuary (and BMC YouTube live-stream) – February 24, 2021

*"Praise be to the LORD, who this day has not left you without a guardian-redeemer. ... He will renew your life and sustain you in your old age. For your daughter-in-law, who loves you and who is better to you than seven sons, has given him birth."* RUTH 4:14-15 (NIV)

### 1. Opening & Praying



### 2. Introduction:

- Watch the video: *DUMB & DUMBER*

*"When things seem hopeless and life feels meaningless,  
God might just be getting ready to do some of his best work."*

- **Reflect on it/Talk About It:** *Tell about a time God showed up and did something surprising and unexpected in a seemingly hopeless situation that you (or someone you know) faced.*

- ### 3. Review:
- As we go through *The Story* together, we want to learn how to tell the story. This week we begin a focus on Movement 2 portion of *The Story*. Read through Movement 1 in review & then begin to commit Movement 2 to memory.

**MOVEMENT 2:** *God builds a brand-new nation called Israel. Through this nation, God will reveal his presence, power, and plan to get us back. Every story of Israel will point to the first coming of Jesus --the One who will provide the way back to God.*

Picture	Portion of The Story	Portion of the Bible
	The Story of the <b>Garden</b>	Genesis 1–11
	The Story of <b>Israel</b>	Genesis 12–Malachi
	The Story of <b>Jesus</b>	Matthew–John (Gospels)
	The Story of the <b>Church</b>	Acts–Jude
	The Story of a <b>New Garden</b>	Revelation



**6. Video Discussion/Journaling:** Write down your answers.

- Naomi was a person of faith, but she also questioned God and was deeply honest about her struggles (Ruth 1:19-21; *THE STORY*, p. 122). *In what ways did Naomi's losses impact how she viewed God and God's work in her life?*

*Tell about a time you were honest with God about your pain and your hurt. As you look back on that episode, what have you learned about God's presence and faithfulness.*

- Boaz was a man of amazing character and wisdom (Ruth 2 - 3; *THE STORY* pp. 123 - 126). *What can we learn from Boaz's interactions with his workers, including Ruth?*

- Throughout we get glimpses into Ruth's character. *What are some of the exemplary aspects of her heart, attitudes, and behaviour?*

*How might Ruth be a role model for people today?*

- At the end of the book of Ruth, Boaz offers another family member the opportunity to pay for and redeem the land of Naomi's dead husband and his sons. When this other family member realizes it will cost him a great deal and gain him nothing financially he declines. At this point Boaz pays for all the property and allows the name of Elimelech (Naomi's late husband) to be remembered. *Give examples of things God calls Christians to do that cost us a great deal and do not pay off much (in this life or the eyes of the world).*
- How did Jesus' life model service and sacrifice for people who really had nothing with which to pay him back? *What has Jesus given you that you could never truly pay back? How can we express gratitude for his amazing generosity?*

*Jesus is the ultimate Kinsman (guardian)-Redeemer.*

**Personal Reflections & Action:** Reflect on some of the main characters in this amazing narrative and pray for your life to reflect some of the same God-honouring attitudes and behaviour.

1. **NAOMI:** Learn from her example of faith even in the hard times, from her care for her daughters-in-law, and from her honesty about her pain and loss.
2. **RUTH:** Learn from her devotion to Naomi, from her commitment to work hard, and from her trust in God.

**3. BOAZ:** Learn from his compassion to a person in need, from his generosity, and from his integrity.

**ACTION:** Be a Boaz. He showed compassion to a person in need. Think through the coming week and identify one or two acts of compassion and generosity you can extend to a person who is hurting, marginalized, and in need.

*"Right now your story might seem a little hopeless and bitter to the taste.  
But remember, if you love God and align your life to God's purposes you will discover that God is working it all out for the good.  
Wait patiently and God will unfold his good plan!"*

**4. Next Week:** *Standing Tall, Falling Hard (1 Samuel).*